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Ministry of Forests and Range

SCOWLITZ FIRST NATION AGREEMENT PROVIDES TIMBER ACCESS

VICTORIA – The Scowlitz First Nation will have access to almost 34,000 cubic metres of timber and $566,000 in revenue sharing through a five-year agreement with the Province, Maple Ridge-Mission MLA Randy Hawes announced today.

"Forestry agreements like these build on our new relationship with First Nations," Hawes said. "The Scowlitz First Nation, and other members of the Stó:lo Nation are, with these agreements, demonstrating the vital role forestry continues to have in the economy of the Fraser Valley and the province."

Timber for the agreement will come from the band's traditional territory within the Fraser Timber Supply Area. Under the Forestry Revitalization Plan, the Province committed to reallocate timber to First Nations, communities and woodlot operators to create new opportunities in forestry.

"Our government has signed forestry agreements with over 100 First Nations across B.C.," said Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman. "Partnerships with First Nations like the Scowlitz create jobs, provide economic benefits and help build a diverse and prosperous forest industry."

The Scowlitz has 216 members on three reserves near Lake Errock, northeast of Chilliwack. It is the 101st First Nation to negotiate a forestry-related agreement with the Province. Since 2002, government has shared over $115.3 million in forestry revenue and access to almost 15.8 million cubic metres of timber.

"This agreement will provide economic opportunities and benefits for the Scowlitz as we work toward final settlement of our interests," Chief John Pennier said.

Since 2001, the Province has been working with First Nations to provide economic growth and opportunities, especially in traditional areas like forestry. Government is committed to strengthening relationships with First Nations based on reconciliation, recognition and constructive consultation on social and economic issues.

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